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of the Journal, is a description of the "measuring" of a sick infant in the mountains of Virginia.

Precisely the same custom, based upon the same idea, exists in the mountains of Pennsylvania, as I have described in a paper soon to appear in vol. ix., "Annual Report of the Bureau of Ethnology."

It may not be out of place to say that it was my own little daughter that was to be "measured," but the "measuring" had to be done by a "wise woman," who pronounced, without seeing her, that my child was dying of "flesh-decay."

The physicians in attendance had made a diagnosis of "retarded dentition," which diagnosis was correct, and the baby soon recovered. But it has always seemed to me that I did wrong in not letting the old "wise woman" go through her office, so that I might take notes of all she did.

Perhaps no superstition is more widely diffused than this "measuring." The Pennsylvania and perhaps the Virginia settlers brought it over from Germany, although no part of Europe is free from it.

So, in Mexico, we find the "medidas" everywhere, with the distortion that it is not the patient who is to be measured, but some statue of the Madonna, or a saint of local celebrity. The "medida" of the saint's head cures headache; that of the body, internal disorders; those of the legs and arms, rheumatism and dropsy.

In many of the outlying districts, one can still find at the church portals vendors of "medidas" and "milagros," each "medida" being a ribbon stamped with the words, in Spanish: "Measure of our Lady of ——," "Measure of Saint —— of."

I have bought these things many and many a time.

John G. Bourke, Capt. 3d Cavalry, U. S. Army.

FORT RINGGOLD, TEXAS.

SUPERSTITIONS OF IRISH ORIGIN IN BOSTON, MASS. — If you meet a funeral, you must turn and go back a few steps before continuing your journey.

The oldest member of a family takes the children, from the oldest to the youngest, and makes them walk three times across the grave. It cures disease.

When a funeral goes by, you must say: "Lord have mercy on them."

Turn everything upside down in the room when the dead is laid out.

Stop the clock and cover the mirrors. This is still said to be always done among Irish in Boston.

When the first child dies, the mother must not attend the funeral; if she does, she will die also.

A new-born baby, when dressed, is to be shaken, holding it up by the feet. This will bring good luck.

In a strange house, put a garter at the head of your bed, and think on the one you are to marry, naming the bedposts.

Place your clothes in the four corners of the room, and you will dream of the one you are to marry.

If you have the hiccough, and think of the right person, it will go away.

If your hand itches, rub it on a wooden object, saying:

Rub on wood,
Something good.

If you rub your forefinger, and it itches, you will be disappointed.
For the first baby a cradle must be bought.
If you have two, you will be married twice, or go twice to a wedding.
If a knife is dropped, the first visitor will be a lady ; if a fork, a man.
If you spill salt, put some on the stove, or on your right shoulder, three times.

If you put your shoes in the shape mentioned, saying,

Place your shoes in the form of a T,
Hoping my true love for to see,

you will dream of the person.

Jane H. Newell.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

WEATHER PROVERBS IN THE UNITED STATES. — The following circular, issued by head of the Weather Bureau, is self-explanatory. It is here reproduced in order that it may be brought to the notice of members of The American Folk-Lore Society, and other persons who may be able to render assistance in the task undertaken : —

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

WEATHER BUREAU, WASHINGTON, D. C., *August 1, 1892.*

It is desired to make a new collection of the Weather Proverbs of the United States, and to make it as complete as possible. For this purpose your coöperation is requested. Should you have the kindness to send me a list of such proverbs, please distinguish, when practicable, between those which are of American origin and those which have been imported, giving, when possible, the origin of each, whether Indian, Scotch, English, Irish, German, etc. By a prompt compliance with this request you will very much oblige,

Yours respectfully,

MARK W. HARRINGTON, *Chief of Weather Bureau.*

VARIOUS SUPERSTITIONS.— (1.) *The Use of Salt.* — After renting a house to a colored woman, she complained to me that she had so much salt to buy, as the last tenant had left both witches and spirits behind her ; indeed, as she said, “ the house was just full,” and the only way to get rid of them was to salt all the objects, especially all the flowers, floors, and especially to throw a great quantity of salt up the chimneys. Beside, she had to wear it in her shoes and stockings, and her husband's clothes had to be well salted. After this thorough salting, they remained in the house several years without any further trouble.

(2.) *Christmas Wreaths after Candlemas.* — It is an old superstition that all the Christmas wreaths and evergreens must be taken away before Candlemas, or there will be a goblin for each leaf.

For look how many leaves there be
Neglected there (maids, trust to me) ;
So many goblins you shall see.